

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3938

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 15828

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, SREF, RO, IT, PFOR, EEWT

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN EXIT PERMITS

REF: A. STATE 252773

B. ROME 15255

1. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED FROM GIORGIO VECCHI, CHIEF OF THE MFA'S POLITICAL OFFICE FOR EASTERN EUROPE, OF SOME BUREAUCRATIC OPPOSITION TO ITALIAN TEMPORARY ACCEPTANCE OF ROMANIAN EMIGRANTS DESTINED FOR THE UNITED STATES. OPPOSITION BASED ON THE FACT THAT IN THE PAST SOME ROMANIANS HAVE ARRIVED IN ITALY FOR ONWARD PROCESSING AND HAVE NEVER LEFT THE COUNTRY BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT SUCCEEDED IN FINDING A COUNTRY WHICH WOULD ACCEPT THEM.

2. TO OVERCOME THE HURDLE, VECCHI SUGGESTED THAT A LETTER FROM THE EMBASSY (DCM) TO THE MFA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS PLAJA WOULD CARRY THE DAY. HE ASKED THAT THE LETTER SET FORTH THE PROBLEM WE ARE FACING WITH THE GROUP NOW WAITING IN ROMANIA, AND INDICATE THAT WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO PROCESS ALL CASES, ONCE THEY ARRIVE IN ROME, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOR ADMISSION INTO THE UNITED STATES. THERE FOLLOWS, FOR DEPARTMENT'S AND BUCHAREST'S CONCURRENCE, TEXT OF THE LETTER WE PROPOSE TO SEND TO PLAJA.

3. QUOTE: DEAR MR. DIRECTOR GENERAL: I AM WRITING TO BRING
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TO YOUR ATTENTION A PROBLEM WE CURRENTLY HAVE INVOLVING THE

MOVEMENT FROM ROMANIA OF A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 100 INDIVIDUALS INTENDING TO IMMIGRATE INTO THE UNITED STATES. THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE ROMANIA, LARGELY AS A RESULT OF REPRESENTATIONS BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THE GENERAL GROUNDS OF REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES.

4. UNFORTUNATELY CURRENTLY EXISTING AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAW DOES NOT ALLOW US TO PROCESS THIS GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS FOR DIRECT ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES WHILE THEY ARE IN ROMANIA SINCE THE NATURE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR AMERICAN SPONSORS IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE FOR VISA PURPOSES. HOWEVER, WE DO HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF PROCESSING THESE INDIVIDUALS AT A POINT SUCH AS ROME WHERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE ARE STATIONED.

5. IT WOULD BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED IF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, WOULD PERMIT THE ENTRY INTO ITALY OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS PLUS AN ADDITIONAL LIMITED NUMBER IN THE FUTURE FOR THE PERIOD OF TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE THEIR PROCESSING FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES. FOR ITS PART, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL UNDERTAKE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO INSURE THAT THOSE INDIVIDUALS PROCEEDING FROM ROMANIA TO ITALY WILL BE QUALIFIED TO ENTER SUBSEQUENTLY THE UNITED STATES.

6. FINALLY WE HAVE THE UNFORTUNATE REALITY THAT IN SOME CASES, PERMISSION TO EXIT FROM ROMANIA WILL EXPIRE IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE APPROPRIATE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES COULD COMPLETE THEIR CONSIDERATION OF THIS SUBJECT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME, AND, IF FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO OUR REQUEST, AUTHORIZE THE ITALIAN EMBASSY AT BUCHAREST TO ISSUE THE APPROPRIATE VISAS TO INDIVIDUALS NOTIFIED TO IT BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT BUCHAREST. END QUOTE.

7. CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATES HOW IMPORTANT IT IS, IF WE END UP UTILIZING THE ITALIAN ROUTE, THAT ALL CASES PROCEEDING HERE BE SCREENED AS MINUTELY AS POSSIBLE TO INSURE THAT WE DO NOT STICK THE ITALIANS WITH REJECTED
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AMERICAN CASES. (FROM PAST EXPERIENCE THESE WOULD GENERALLY INVOLVE INDIVIDUALS WITH COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERSHIP, CRIMINAL RECORDS, OR HISTORIES OF MENTAL ILLNESS.) IN THIS REGARD, WE NOTE IN BUCHAREST'S 5534 THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL CASES INVOLVING COMMUNIST PARTY AFFILIATION. WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT IN THESE CASES AND ALL OTHER CASES WHERE THERE IS A QUESTION OF VISA ELIGIBILITY A PRIOR ADVISORY OPINION (INVOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP IN THE CASE OF PAST PARTY MEMBERSHIP) BE

OBTAINED FROM INS ROME PRIOR TO CLEARING THE CONCERNED INDIVIDUALS FOR DEPARTURE TO ROME FOR FINAL PROCESSING. (THIS IS THE MANNER IN WHICH SIMILAR CASES EX THE SOVIET UNION ARE NOW HANDLED.)

8. ACTION REQEUSTED. PLEASE ADVISE FOR OOB NOVEMBER 3 ACCEPTABILITY OF THE WORDING OF THE PROPOSED LETTER TO DIRECTOR GENERAL PLAJA. VOLPE

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